

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, OECD, CIEC

SUBJ: HLG ON NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS - PREPARATION FOR UNCTAD

REF: OECD PARIS 04145

1. FROM THE NEW YORK VANTAGE POINT, THE FRENCH AND  
BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES' COMMENTS REPORTED IN PARA  
3 OF THE REFTEL APPEAR UNREALISTIC AND IMPRUDENT.  
DESPITE THE RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF THE CIEC AND ITS  
CLEAR ADVANTAGES FOR THE US, THE ONLY SAFE ASSUMPTION  
IS THAT THE G-77 WILL PRESS FOR SOME SUBSTANTIVE  
RESULTS AT UNCTAD IV. THE US STRATEGY OUTLINED IN  
THE REFTEL SEEMS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY IF WESTERN  
COUNTRIES -- THE US IN PARTICULAR -- ARE TO BE IN A  
POSITION TO AVOID A NEGATIVE OUTCOME AT UNCTAD WITH  
THE RISK OF A MAJOR SETBACK TO THE CIEC AND THE OVERALL  
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NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE.

2. ON FEBRUARY 12 WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE OUTLOOK FOR UNCTAD WITH MARSHALL AND ROUGE, ECONOMIC MINISTERS OF THE UK AND FRENCH UN MISSIONS. (PROTECT BOTH SOURCES.) IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH US THEY REACTED SHARPLY TO THE NEWS THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE G-77 COULD BE PERSUADED TO FOREGO THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY UNCTAD IV BECAUSE THE CIEC WOULD STILL BE UNDERWAY.

3. MARSHALL SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS HMG'S CONSIDERED VIEW. ROUGE SAID THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO HOLD THE OPINIONS REPORTED IN THE REFTEL, BUT HE FLATLY DISAGREES WITH THEIR ASSESSMENT. HE STRONGLY QUESTIONS WHETHER THIS IS CLEAR-CUT VIEW OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SEEK FURTHER UK AND FRENCH ASSESSMENTS BILATERALLY IN LONDON, PARIS AND/OR WASHINGTON. THE COURSE OF THE CIEC BETWEEN NOW AND MAY, AND G-77 EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR, MAY WELL INFLUENCE LDC BEHAVIOR AT NAIROBI. BUT USUN BELIEVES WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR A STRONG G-77 PUSH REQUIRING THAT WE HAVE SOME CARDS TO PLAY AT UNCTAD. BENNETT

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